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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 7740
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SIPDIS

SENSITIVE
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DEPT FOR WHA, IO/EDA AND OES/ENV

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [SENV](#) [AORC](#) [PREL](#) [EAGR](#) [EUN](#) [EAID](#) [ECON](#) [CA](#)
SUBJECT: CANADIAN REPRESENTATION AT CSD-16

REF: STATE 40180

Sensitive but Unclassified. Protect accordingly.

¶1. (SBU) Embassy made demarche requested reftel and discussed U.S. views on Zimbabwe chairing the 16th session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-16) with Pamela O'Donnell, director of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Sustainable Development Division. O'Donnell confirmed that Canada has similar concerns with Francis Nhema chairing CSD-16 and is "on the same wavelength" with the U.S. on this matter.

¶2. (SBU) O'Donnell said the Canadian delegation to the meeting will be lead by her deputy (Rachel McCormick), but that the highest ranking member of the delegation will actually be a director general (roughly equivalent to a deputy assistant secretary) from Agriculture Canada. While Canada will thus not be represented at a high level at CSD-16, this in fact is not a departure from previous meetings: O'Donnell said it had been years since a Canadian minister attended.

¶3. (SBU) O'Donnell added that Canadian officials had been hearing rumors recently that Zimbabwe might yield chair duties for the meeting to Tanzania, ostensibly because Nhema might not be able to depart Zimbabwe.

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